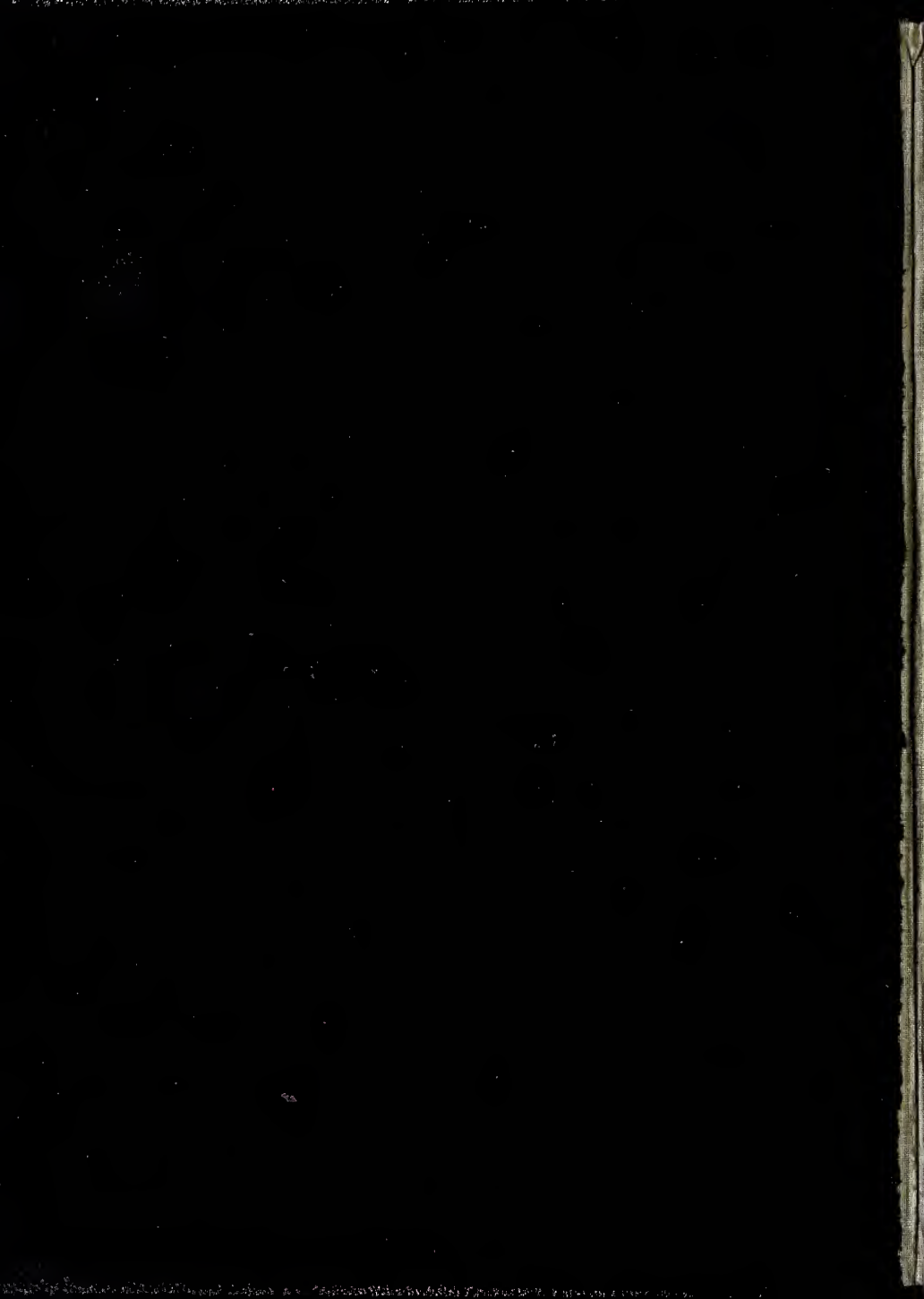


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Certain Mounds and Village Sites in Ohio

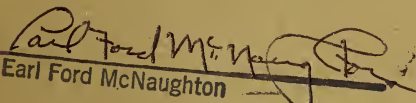
Vol. 4 Part 2

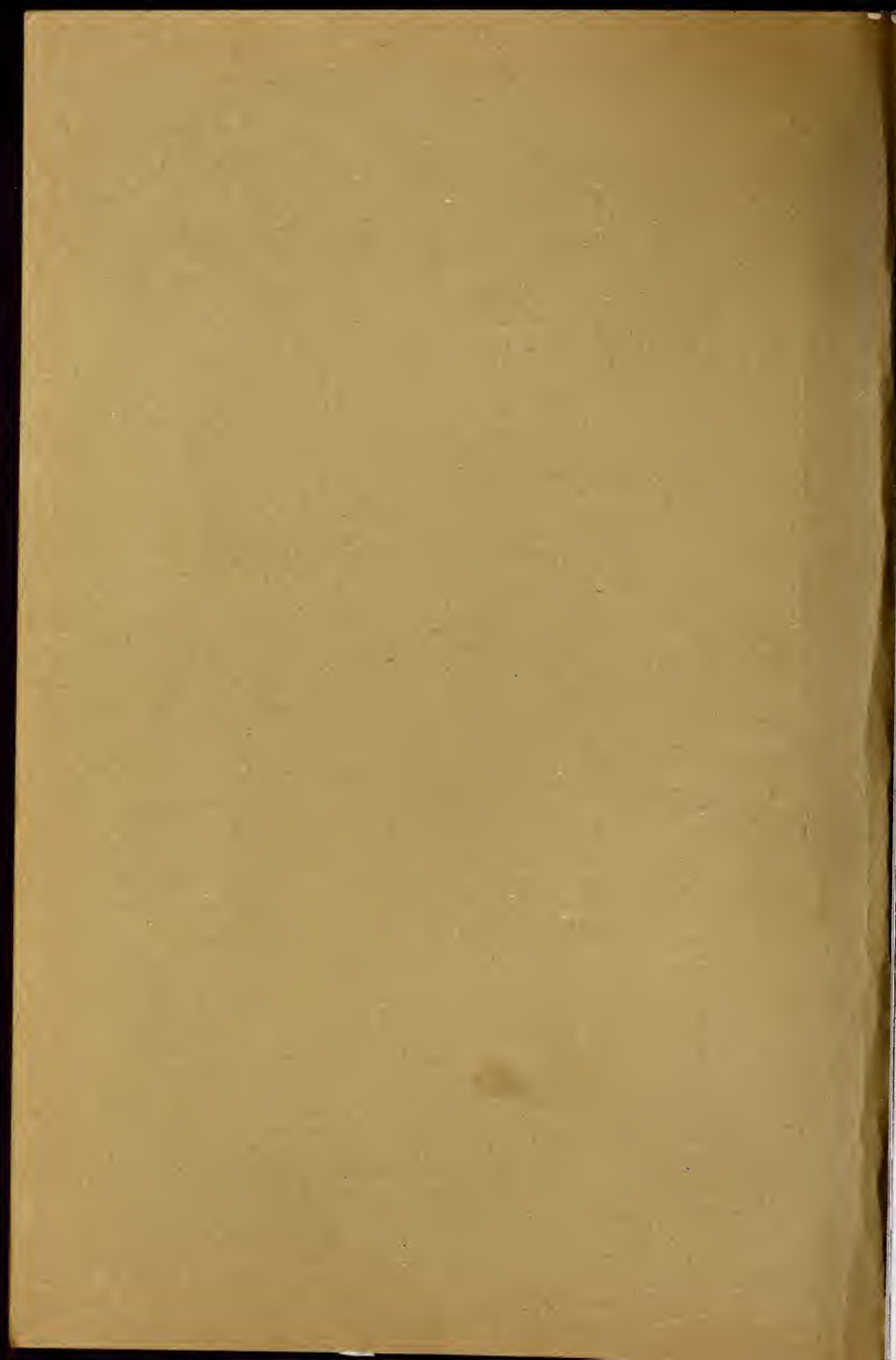
Exploration of the Wright Group of Pre-historic Earthworks

By H. C. SHETRONE

WILLIAM C. MILLS, M. Sc.

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Certain Mounds and Village Sites in Ohio

VOL. 4 PART 2

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EXAMINED BY

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Columbus, Ohio
The F. J. Heer Printing Co.
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EXPLORATION OF THE WRIGHT GROUP OF PRE-HISTORIC EARTHWORKS

BY H. C. SHETRONE, CURATOR OF ARCHAEOLOGY

The Wright Group of Earth-works is located in Perry Township, Franklin County, Ohio, one mile northeast of the village of Dublin. The three units composing the group — a rectangular and two circular en-

losures — lie mostly upon the land of Samuel M. Wright, whose name, in recognition of examination privileges and personal assistance accorded by him, is hereby given them.

The location of the Wright Group is ideally picturesque, occupying, as it does, the elevated terrace

overlooking the Scioto River to the west. Adjoining the group on the east and south is Wright's Run, an attractive stream which, coming down from the north-east, cuts its way through the limestone strata of the district and, tumbling over a picturesque water-fall, passes through a deep gorge and thence into the Scioto River. One mile to the north is the monument to the Wyandot chief Leatherlips.



LEATHERLIPS' MONUMENT.

The first important notice in archaeological literature of the Wright Group of Earth-works is contained in the Twelfth Annual Report of the Bureau of American Ethnology (1890-1891) where, in a paper entitled "Mound Explorations of the Bureau of Ethnology," Doctor Cyrus Thomas furnishes a map of the group.

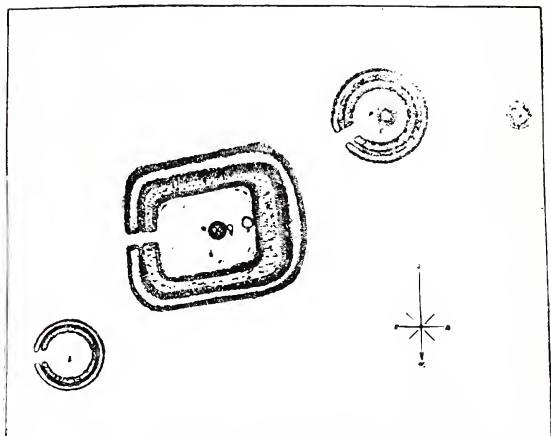


FIG. 2.—The Wright Group.

(Fig. 2) together with the following descriptive text:

ANCIENT WORKS NEAR DUBLIN

"The works represented (map) are one mile northeast of Dublin and one-fourth of a mile east of the Scioto River. They are on a nearly level area of the higher lands of the section. Contrary to what is usual, the soil immediately around them is not nearly so fertile as that a short distance away.

"At 1 is a circular embankment with an inside ditch. The diameter, measuring from the middle line of the embankment on one side, to the middle on the other side, is 120 feet, the wall is

about 10 feet broad and 2 feet high, and the ditch 15 feet wide and 2 feet deep, leaving a level enclosed circular area 80 feet in diameter. On the east side is a gateway 12 feet wide.

"No 2 is a rectangular enclosure with rounded corners. In measuring it, stakes were set where the middle line of the embankment would cross if produced. The distances between these stakes were as follows: north side, 287 feet; west side, 212 feet; south side, 262 feet; east side, 220 feet. The outer line of the west wall forms a curve along its entire length; the other sides are straight. On the north, east and west sides, the wall is 25 feet across the base; on the south side, 35; its height, quite uniform throughout, is about 3 feet. It is bordered on the inside by a ditch, 16 feet wide on the south side, 20 on the east and north sides, and 30 on the west side; depth about 2 feet on the east side, gradually increasing along the north from 3 to 4 feet, being widest and deepest at the south-west corner. Thus more earth was taken out along the west line of the ditch and added to the south side of the embankment. The rounded outer corners of the embankment are 20 feet within the points where the margins of the wall would intersect if carried on straight. The corners of the inner sides of the ditch are about ten feet within their corresponding points. The passage-way on the eastern side is 15 feet wide. In all these enclosures the passageway is simply the natural surface of the ground between the ends of the ditch and wall; that is to say, it is not graded. On the level space enclosed by the ditch 100 feet from the top of the east line of the embankment, is a mound (a) 4 feet high and 35 feet in diameter. On the top are numerous flat stones, which it is said had formed graves enclosing skeletons of very large size, but nothing could be learned as to the manner in which they were buried. Another stone grave (b), 8 feet in diameter, on the edge or bottom of this mound on its western side, had been opened, and so torn up that its mode of construction could not be determined. Still west, its edge extending quite up to the ditch, is another mound (2) 1 foot high and 24 feet in diameter. This had never been disturbed. From the top of the bank at the north-east corner of 2 to the nearest point on top of the embankment of enclosure 1, is 133 feet; and the line of the north edge of 2, if produced, would touch the south edge of 1.

"South-west of 2 is another circular enclosure (3) similar in construction to 1; the embankment is 18 feet across and 2 feet high; the ditch 22 feet wide and 3 feet deep in the deepest part; the level space enclosed 100 feet in diameter, making the entire diameter of enclosure from center to center of the outer wall 162 feet. The passage-way (opening directly toward 2) is 22 feet wide. In the enclosure is a mound (d) 40 feet in diameter and 3

feet high, its center being 60 feet from the inner edge of the ditch on the east. The amount of earth in this mound is hardly sufficient to account for the difference between the cubic contents of the excavation and those of the embankment.

"About 500 feet west of 3 is a single mound (4) 5 feet high and 50 feet in diameter".

The general character of the Wright group, together with the specimens unearthed by the plow in cultivation of the land, indicated that these works were to be attributed to the Hopewell culture group of Ohio prehistoric peoples; and in view of the fact that the group is the most northerly located work of the Hopewell culture identified up to the present time, it was felt that its examination was desirable. Prospects for favorable results were not encouraging, owing to the very slight elevation of the mounds and the fact that they had been cultivated and disturbed; but the labor involved in examining them was comparatively small, and positive identification of the culture status of the builders, at least, would be sufficient recompense for the efforts expended.

Since the Bureau of Ethnology survey of the Wright group was made, the units composing it have been considerably modified by cultivation, although they remain, even at this late date, comparatively bold. This is particularly true of the easternmost of the three enclosures (1), a circular figure, which is particularly bold, the moat of which at the time of examination contained throughout its entire circumference from one foot to 18 inches of water. By using a vantage-point furnished by a nearby tree, a photograph compassing the entire enclosure, with its water-filled moat, was secured. (Fig.

3). This enclosure contained no mound, and an examination of its interior disclosed no burials or other remains.

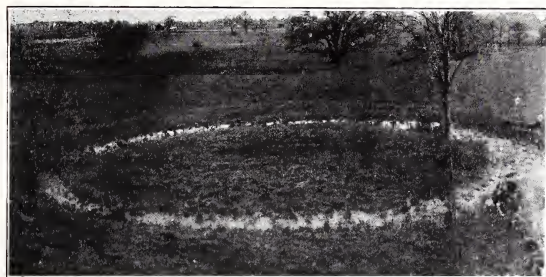


FIG. 3.—Circular Enclosure Wright Works.

The mound within the central figure—the square enclosure represented as No. 2—was found to have been considerably modified in size and shape through the removal of stone from its top and sides, and through continued encroachment of cultivation around its margin, in which process the stones extending outward from the circumference had been dislodged and removed or thrown upon the mound. Its approximate dimensions, as a result, were 28 feet east and west and 20 feet north and south, with a maximum height, toward the east end, of 34 inches.

The mound, examination of which is shown in Fig. 4, was entirely removed—a difficult task, in view of the great quantity of flat limestone slabs composing the structure and the growth of shrubbery and small trees which practically covered it, their roots penetrating in every direction and binding the whole closely together.

The examination revealed these results: Upon a fairly level but not greatly used floor or base, there had been erected a structure composed of clean clayey loam, 15 inches in depth at the center. Upon the floor or base, a thin covering of charred matter appeared, but no post-molds indicating a pre-structure of timbers, and no burials or other remains, were found. However, placed directly upon the top of the low earthen mound there had been deposited a total of 11 burials, of a very un-



FIG. 4. — The Stone Mound, Wright Works.

usual nature. Instead of the usual cremated burials of the culture, or the alternate ordinary uncremated burials, the bones of the skeletons had been broken into fragments, and the little heaps resulting, in every way resembling the cremated burial, but unburned, were deposited simply and without accompanying artifacts, upon the surface of the soil. Covering these burials, which were placed at random throughout the structure, were slabs of limestone, often measuring three feet in

length. This covering of limestone slabs was not confined to the burials, but formed an arch, several layers deep, over the entire mound. Upon and above this stone covering, which in a way suggested the ceremonial sand or gravel strata characteristic of the more central mounds of the culture, had been heaped earth from the surrounding surface, the amount or depth of which was indeterminate, owing to the disturbance which the mound had suffered.

It was found that at some early date, beyond the recollection of the owner or old residents of the districts, a shaft had been sunk at the center of the mound. This covered, at the base, a space roughly 4 feet in diameter, and had reached well below the base line. It served a useful purpose, in that it enabled the present survey to determine, without doubt, that the remainder of the structure had not been disturbed to any appreciable depth.

With the idea in mind that burials might possibly be found outside the mound, within the level space of the enclosure, numerous tests were made by trenching. A single burial, unique perhaps in character, was found at a distance of 30 feet south-west of the base of the mound.

This burial, shown by the accompanying photograph, (Fig. 5) lay one foot below the present surface, and consisted of a basin-like receptacle formed by laying down slabs of limestone within the shallow excavation, the placing of the human remains therein, and the covering over of these with other thin slabs of limestone. The burial was a cremated one, typical in every respect in the amount and character of the remains. It was unaccompanied by artifacts.

Unit No. 3, being the circular enclosure to the westward, contained a burial mound which, according to the above-mentioned survey was, at the time, 3 feet high. Since that survey was made, the land on which the enclosure and mound lie has been plowed and cultivated. In breaking this land, for the first time, in 1914, Mr. Wright, the owner, came upon four graves. He was able to point out the location of these, and to describe them and their contents. Their location was verified in the examination of the structure.



FIG. 5.—Cremated Burial, Wright Works.

The entire site of this mound was carefully excavated, the result showing that the Bureau of Ethnology survey had erred in the height of the mound, rather than they did not foresee that the greater part of the apparent elevation was a natural one; in fact, the arti-

ficial elevation, or mound proper, did not exceed 12 inches at its highest point. Since this work has been cultivated but little since the time of the Bureau survey, it has been but slightly modified in form. As a result, the cultivation of the site had disturbed all graves, only the bottoms of which remained for the present survey, and to enable the exact identification of the disturbed burials.

Of the four burials contained in this mound, two were cremated, and two buried in a natural way, uncremated. Near the center of the mound, within a stone grave, had been placed a cremated burial, from which Mr. Wright took a large ocean shell container and half a dozen finely made flint flake knives. Our examination disclosed the disturbed grave, and two additional flake knives. A second cremated burial lay about 4 feet to the south-east of the center, was covered by stone slabs, but contained no artifacts. Just south of center was found an uncremated burial, the skeleton well preserved, with which, placed near the head, was a pair of spool-shaped copper ear-ornaments. The skull of this burial was sent to the museum at the time of finding by Mr. John Wing of Dublin.

The fourth burial, uncremated, lay to the northwest of center. With this was found a plain platform pipe, of the usual pattern, and a slate gorget. In addition to these burials, the present survey noted the remains of a fifth, just north of center. This was uncremated, with the covering of stone slabs, below, at least, and showed merely the vestiges of a flexed skeleton, mostly dislodged by the plow. A few fragments of mica, the incisor tooth of a beaver, and a few flake

flint knives were scattered through the disturbed earth of the mound.

The specimens taken from these graves by Mr. Wright are in the collection of Mr. F. P. Hills, of Delaware, Ohio, with the exception of the flaked knives, of variegated Flint Ridge material, which were presented to the Museum by Mr. Wright.

THE KRUMM MOUND

With the permission of Mr. C. S. Krumm, upon whose land it is located, the westernmost mound shown on the map of the group was examined. Owing to the fact that it lies at some distance from the earthworks proper, it had remained undetermined whether or not this mound actually pertained to the Wright group. The structure was slightly more than three feet in height, with an indeterminate lateral extent, owing to long-continued cultivation. It was found to be composed of the clay and loam of the surrounding surface, was without definite features as to its construction, and contained a total of six carelessly deposited partial skeletons, or re-burials. The only burial of interest is that shown in the accompanying cuts, in which (Fig. 6) is shown the deposit before lifting the covering of stone slabs and (Fig. 7) the promiscuous lot of human skeletal remains beneath them. With these remains, comprising apparently parts of three or more skeletons, was a stemmed flint spear-point, three inches in length, made from variegated Flint Ridge material.

Although material evidences within the Krumm mound were rather scant, they are sufficient to demonstrate clearly that this mound was not constructed by the builders of the Wright group, but that it probably



FIG. 6. — Stone-covered Burial, The Krumm Mound.



FIG. 7. — Stone-covered Burial, Exposed — The Krumm Mound.

had its origin with the peoples whose burials are found so freely within the gravel deposits of this region of the Scioto Valley.

CONCLUSION

Examination of the Wright Group proves that these works belong to the Hopewell culture group; incidentally, they are perhaps the most northerly example of their kind so far identified. While definitely Hopewell in their characteristics, the evidence adduced by exploration points to an outlying colony or band which had ranged farther to the north of the principal areas of occupation. The nearest earthwork of the same culture is the Smith Group, one mile west of Worthington, on the west bank of the Olentangy River, some four miles to the south-east. This group, shown as Fig. 8,

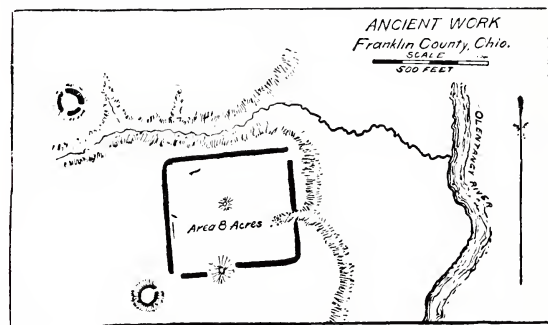


FIG 8.—The Smith Works

is quite pretentious, the larger of the two mounds being upwards of 30 feet in height. It is readily conceivable that the Wright works were constructed and occupied

by a band from the Smith Group, which in itself is doubtless an outpost of the larger settlements to the south, or of the great works at Newark, 40 miles to the eastward and only slightly to the southward. The intermediate form of burial as practiced in the stone mound of the Wright group, where the breaking into fragments of the skeletal remains seems to have been substituted for cremation; and the depositing of a cremated burial in a stone grave, outside the mound proper, are interesting details of the exploration of this group.

THE MCGUERER BURIAL SITE

On the farm of Mr. Chauncey McGuerer, one-half mile north of Dublin, on the east side of the Scioto River, and at about the same distance south from the Wright Group of Earthworks, there was opened, in 1921, a gravel pit from which large quantities of gravel for county road construction have been taken. The gravel deposit corresponds to the edge of the terrace overlooking the bottom lands of the Scioto which, at this point, are very narrow. It was not until the ensuing year, just preceding the examination of the Wright Group, that the Museum was apprised, through Dr. H. O. Whittaker, of Dublin, of the fact that steam shovels employed in removing gravel had unearthed many human skeletons. At this time, however, the industry was at the point of being discontinued, and only a limited portion of the burial site remained for examination.

Assisted by Dr. Whittaker and a workman, the writer spent three days in a cursory examination of those portions of the site available, with the results here recorded.

At the east side of the cut, where the steam shovel had discontinued operations, there appeared to view a discoloration of the gravel, which, upon examination, proved to be the margin of a burial pit. This pit, upon being cleared out, was found to be approximately seven feet across at the top, and to extend to a depth of six feet. The width at the bottom of the pit was approximately four feet, although the caving in of the gravel made it difficult to determine the exact size and shape of the excavation. Within this pit there had been dumped a surprising number of human bones, some of which had been tied in bundles, while others apparently were thrown in one by one. The long bones of the arms and legs predominated in numbers, while many vertebrae and other small bones seemed to be absent. From the total deposit, Doctor Whittaker identified 31 distinct individuals, all adults. Over the mass of bones, before filling in the pit with earth, there had been



FIG. 9. — Human Parietal. With Arrow Wound — McGuerer Burial Site.

dumped a large quantity of red ochre, the result being that most of the bones were more or less coated with the pigment. The only artificial objects found with the deposit was a pair of cut perforated jaws of the wild-cat.

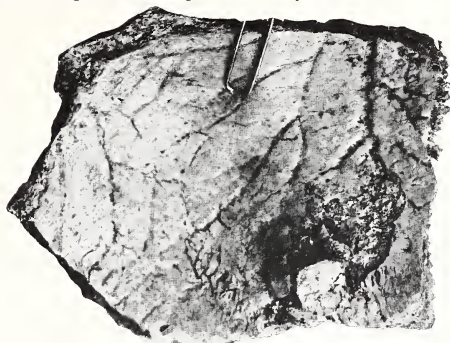


FIG. 10. — Interior Aspect of Fig. 9.

An interesting feature of the remarkable deposit of human skeletal remains was the finding of two bones bearing the marks of wounds from flint arrow-points. One of these is the right parietal bone of the human

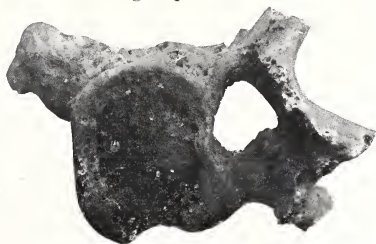


FIG. 11. — Human Vertebra, Pierced by Flint Arrow-point.

skull, pierced by a pointed weapon, presumably a flint arrow-point. In Fig. 9 is shown the outer aspect of the bone with the diamond-shaped perforation, while Fig. 10 shows the inner side, with the wall of the skull forced inward and into the brain to a depth more than equal to the thickness of the skull. That the wound was not immediately fatal is apparent from the fact that the perforation shows new bone tissue thrown out in the process of mending or healing. The second specimen, shown as Fig. 11, is a human dorsal vertebra, into the body of which there is embedded a flint arrow-point. The arrow-point is of pink flint, notched type, measures five-eighths of an inch in width and apparently is between one and one-fourth and one and one-half inches in length. Over the vertebrae and its embedded arrow-point and almost completely covering them, is the coating of red ochre thrown into the pit after the bones were deposited. Unlike the arrow wound in the parietal bone, there is no evidence of healing in this specimen, and from the fact that the projectile point must have passed through the chest from a direction several degrees to the left of center, thus piercing the vital organs before burying its point in the anterior or body portion of the vertebra, it is evident that death must have been practically instantaneous.

A second pit, the margin of which appeared in the edge of the cut, as in the above deposit, was found to be seven feet in depth. It contained, at the bottom, two adult skulls. A short distance eastward from the margin of the cut there was uncovered the skeleton of a youth, buried about 15 inches beneath the surface. The badly decayed skeleton was accompanied by a set (upper

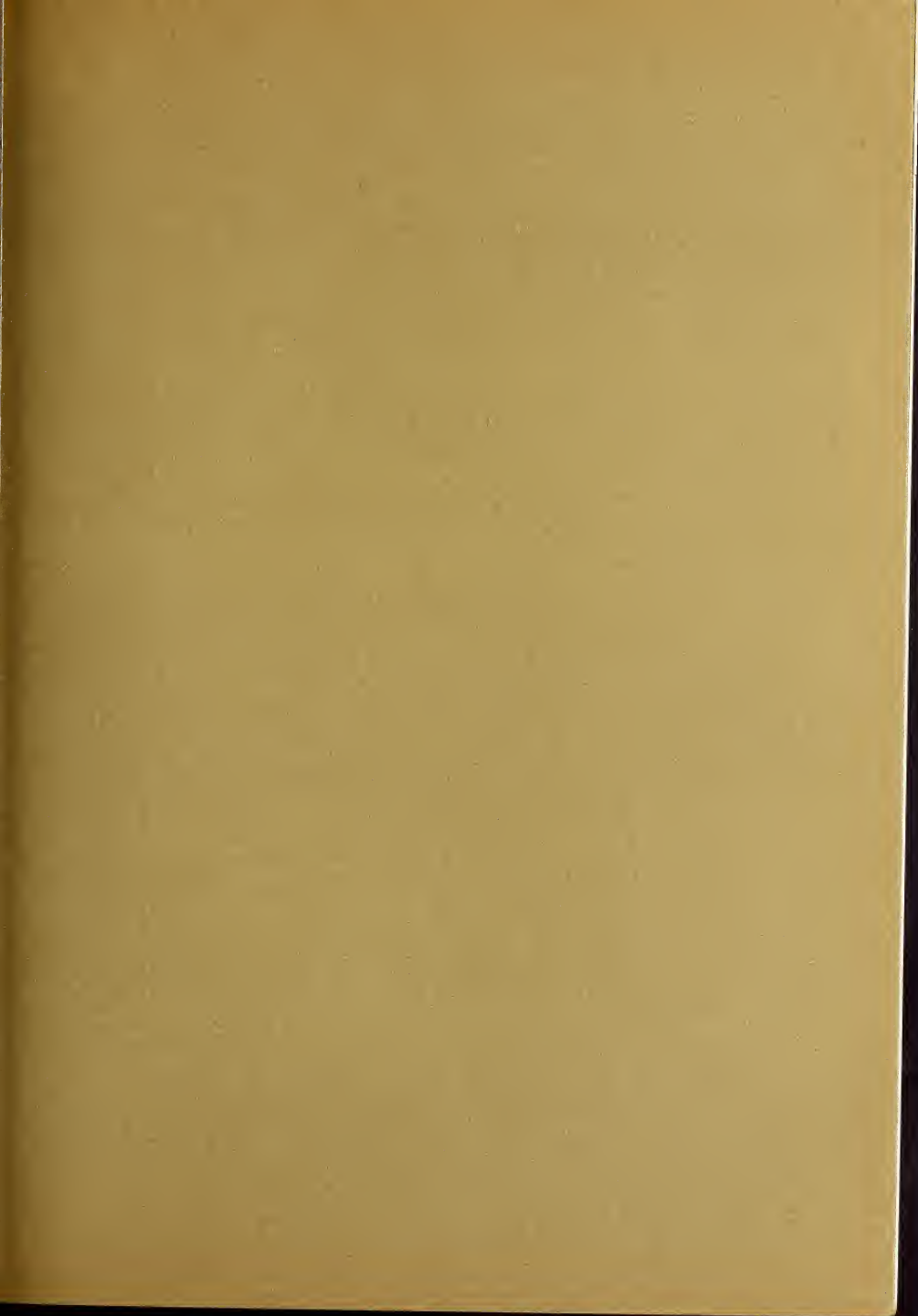
and lower) of cut and polished jaws of the wolf. The work of examination was carried on by taking advantage of the vertical wall, some ten feet high, resulting from steam shovel operations. This wall was repeatedly caved off, thus disclosing the pits and burials. A third pit, brought to light in this manner, contained a deposit of bundled bones, principally the long bones of the arms and legs, with which were placed a string of large and small shell disk beads.

The only skeleton found buried intact was that of a very old individual, the jaws almost toothless and the tibia very much bowed. The burial, placed at a depth of three feet, lay on the right side, falling forward onto the face and stomach, and had the legs tightly flexed to the body. A rude implement, of the roller-pestle type, lay at the head of the grave.

Several other pits, from three feet to six feet deep were worked out, and found to contain neither burials nor implements. The purpose of these pits, which appear to have been very numerous within the area from which the gravel was removed, is not clear. The greater number of them contained merely hard dark earth, with occasional fragments of pottery, bone and flint, filling the funnel-like pits dug into the clear gravel deposit.

Since the portion of this rather extensive burial site available for examination was so limited, no very broad nor definite conclusions can be drawn therefrom. It can be said, however, that the occupants of the site were the same peoples whose villages and camp sites are found rather freely along the central course of the Scioto and whose burials are to be found in many of the

gravel terraces bordering the valley. From the rather scant evidence, it appears that the small mound half a mile to the north, on the Krumm land, may be attributed to the same tribes.



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Certain Mounds and Village Sites in Ohio

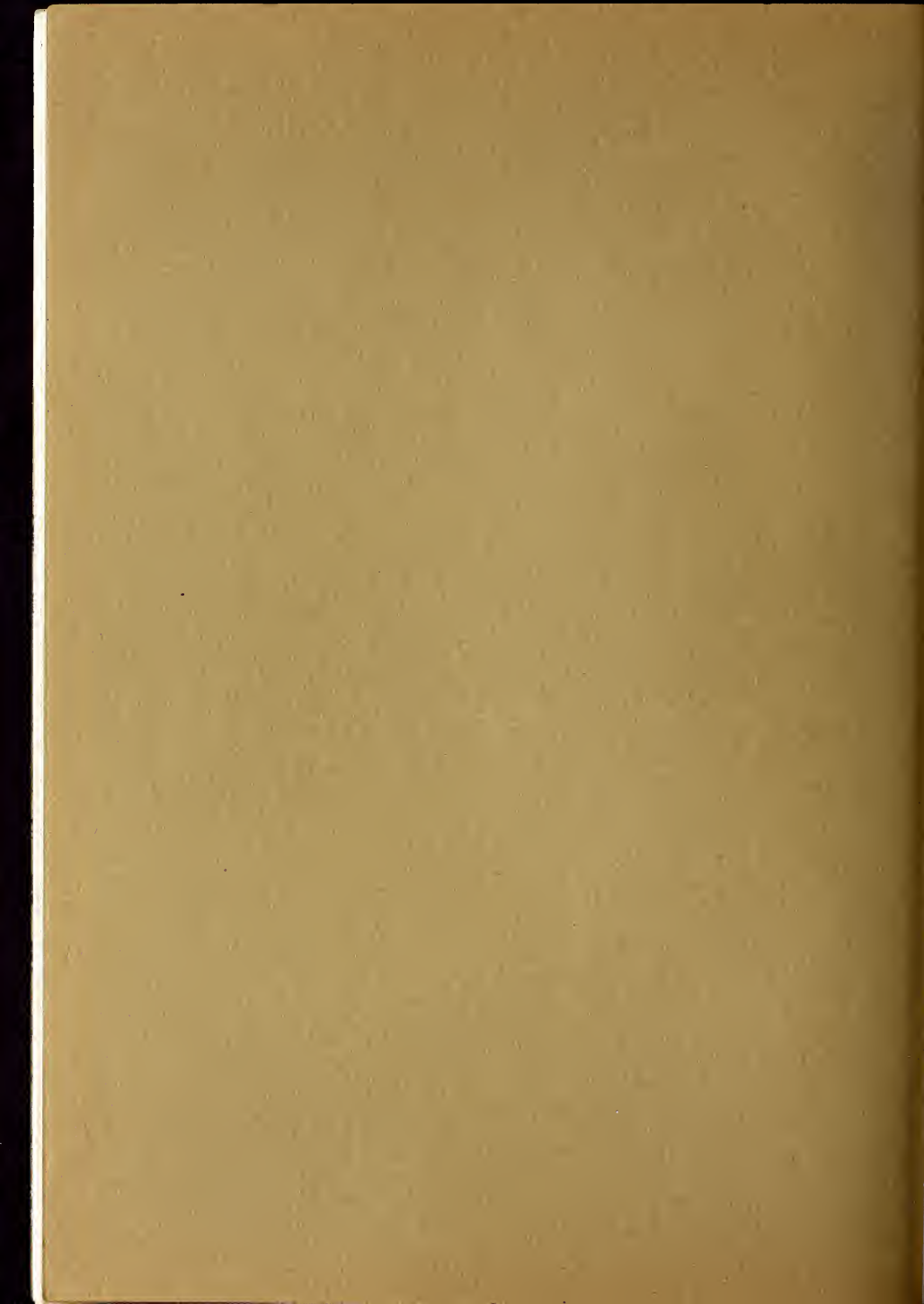
Vol. 4 Part 3

Exploration of the Ginther Mound

The Miesse Mound

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EXPLORATION OF THE GINTHER MOUND

H. C. SHETRONE, CURATOR OF ARCHAEOLOGY.

The type of prehistoric tumuli known variously as Temple mounds, Platform mounds, Truncated mounds and Flat-topped mounds has furnished substance for much speculation in the archaeological literature of Ohio. The early attitude of writers on the subject may be summarized in the words of Squier and Davis, whose opinion is expressed as follows:

"So far as ascertained, they cover no remains, and seem obviously designed as the sites of temples or of other structures which have passed away, or as 'high places' for the performance of certain ceremonies."

Fowke, however, writing at a much later date, is not content with this convenient disposition of the matter, and states that

"As none of them have been explored except in a very inadequate and perfunctory manner, the assertion that 'they cover no remains' is not warranted by our present knowledge."

Only a few examples of the type of mound under consideration occur in Ohio, the most notable being those in connection with the great enclosures at Marietta, with minor ones at Newark and Portsmouth; a low but extensive one within the Cedar Bank works, north of Chillicothe; and, in close proximity to the last-named, the rather striking Ginther Mound—the subject of this report.

The accompanying map of the Cedar Bank works and vicinity, (Fig.1) after Squier and Davis, shows

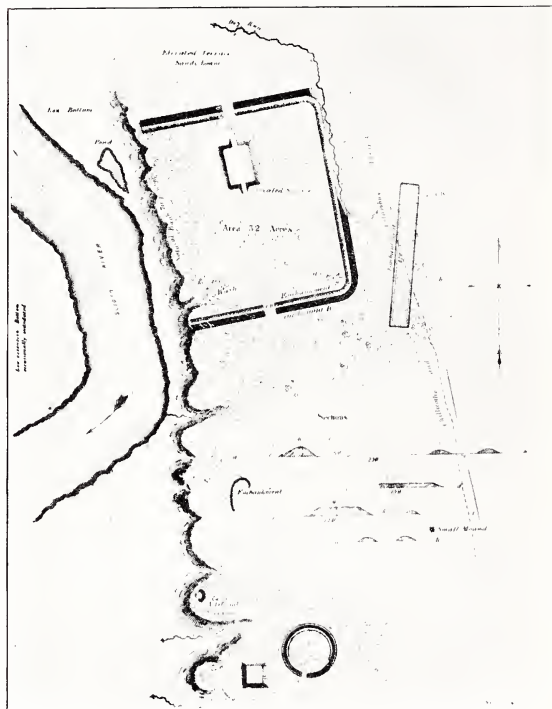


FIG. 1.— Map of Cedar Bank Works and adjacent Mounds.

the location of the Ginther mound and circular enclosure, while their smaller drawing (Fig. 2) depicts

the Ginther works in more detail. Their description of the same is as follows:

"About one-third of a mile south of the principal work (Cedar Bank) is a truncated pyramid, and a small circle; the former is 120 feet square at the base, and nine feet in height; the latter is 250 feet in diameter, and has an entrance from the south, 30 feet wide. The sides of the pyramidal structure correspond to the

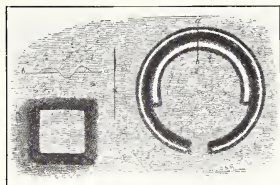


FIG. 2. — Plan of Ginther Mound and Enclosure.

cardinal points. The circle has a ditch interior to the embankment; and has also a broad embankment of about the same height with the outer wall, interior to the ditch, upon the side opposite the entrance * * *. The 'elevated square' has been excavated, but was found to contain no remains."

Since the Ginther works, as is true of most of Ohio's prehistoric tumuli, have suffered modifications in form and size through cultivation, the drawings and measurements of the early explorers are here set down. While the mound itself was found to equal the dimensions given therein, the circle has almost disappeared beneath the plow, and at the present time is just barely traceable.

Although Squier and Davis state explicitly that the Ginther mound had been excavated and found to contain nothing, the Museum authorities felt that, in view of the fact that it is practically the only mound of its type remaining available for examination, and since there is a recognized growing demand for information

regarding their use and purpose, it should be explored. This sentiment was strengthened by the significant location of the tumulus, which lies midway between, and in close proximity to, the Cedar Bank works on the north and the Hopeton works to the south, while just across the Scioto river to the west is the important Mound City group. Since the Cedar Bank and the Hopeton works are practically devoid of mounds, it was felt that the Ginther mound might prove to bear a very close relationship to either or both of them.

With the kind permission of Mrs. Mary Ginther,



FIG. 3. — The Ginther Mound.

owner of the land upon which the works are located, and with the cooperation and assistance of Mr. M. D. Vaughan, manager of the estate, examination of the Ginther mound (Fig. 3) was begun on July 8 and completed on August 15, 1922. The final calculations of Mr. John H. Jefferson, surveyor for the project, showed the structure to be ten feet in maximum height, while the flattened portion, with a diameter of 70 feet, averaged slightly less than nine feet high. The floor ex-

tent was approximately 100 feet east and west and 125 feet north and south. There was no evidence to indicate that the mound ever had been geometrically rectangular in form, as shown in Squier and Davis' drawing, although this feature, particularly the outward angular aspect of the tumulus, may have been obliterated by cultivation and erosion.

The accompanying map of the floor, (Fig. 4) made by Mr. Jefferson for our survey, tells the story of the Ginther mound. The explanation should be noted, however, that with a single exception the ash-beds, fire-places and other indicia shown on this plan in reality do not pertain to the mound proper, but were found beneath the floor where they had been made and used previous to the erection of the mound. In a word, despite the fact that the Ginther mound was shown to be of the Hopewell culture and that it contained a typical and highly specialized floor, there had not been placed within it a single burial or deposit, nor did it contain a single basin of the so-called crematory type — an almost inseparable adjunct of the Hopewell mounds.

The exception to this perhaps unprecedented barrenness of the floor of such mounds was a singular depression lying just east of center. This was rectangular in form, measuring three feet by five feet, and extended almost east and west. The floor around this basin or depression was heavily covered with coarse sand and fine gravel, of a reddish-yellow color. The pit itself which, when cleared out, was found to be 16 inches in depth, contained, first, a stratum of the same sand as that covering the floor, three inches thick; beneath this, a layer of dark organic matter, interspersed with numerous animal and bird bones, broken pottery-ware, bits



LEGEND
 O. PEARL HOLE
 17. BAA BED

NORTH AND SOUTH CROSS SECTION THROUGH CENTER OF MOUND
 DISTANCE IN FEET 100 200 300

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

GINTHER MOUND

FIELD EXPLORATIONS

BY
 H. C. SMITH

JULY - AUGUST 1910

J. H. JEFFERSON - SURVEYOR

SCALE IN FEET

0 10 20 30

of mica, flint chips and mussel shells; below this was a layer, four inches thick, of clayey loam, intermixed with which were a few animal bones; while at the bottom a stratum four inches in thickness was composed of carbonaceous material, containing the same sort of debris as the above strata. Near this pit were two small post-holes.

What may be considered a second deviation from the uniform dearth of deposits or structures on the floor of this mound was the occurrence, northeast of the basin, of a post-hole, around which had been laid, covering a rectangular space 11 by 16 inches in extent, carefully fitted fragments of pottery-ware. These, pavement-like in their disposition, were shreds from utility ware, cord-marked, ranging in size from small fragments to pieces three or four inches across.

The very striking and finely constructed floor of this mound extended uniformly to the very edge of the super-incumbent earthen structure, and comprised approximately 10,000 square feet of surface. The covering of sand often reached a depth of more than one inch, particularly toward the south side. A gradual and apparently intentional slope from the north terminated in a gutter along the southern circumference, for drainage. A few post-molds occurred around the outer edge of the floor, but these were not in sufficient numbers to indicate any extensive attempt at roofing. Upon the floor, particularly toward the south and west, great numbers of chips and flakes from the translucent and variegated Flint Ridge chalcedony and the gray or drab nodular flint were scattered. Among these were occasional finished projectile points and flake knives.

Of the several ash-beds and fire-places found be-

neath the floor, the positions of which are indicated on the map, it only need be said that they were entirely similar to that found upon the floor described above, in so far as contents are concerned, and that in form they were similar but much less specialized and less carefully constructed.

The one development of particular interest in the sub-floor examination was the finding of what appears to have been a food offering, or at least a cache deposit of food. A pit, three feet across, had been dug to a depth of 18 inches below the floor line, and on the flat bottom of this had been deposited a half-bushel of hickory-nuts, of the common shell-bark variety. Around the edges of this deposit were placed, with apparent order, a number of mussel-shells, presumably to serve as spoons or ladles. On top of the deposit, at its center, was the remains of a burned clay vessel, of the utility type, containing a number of animal bones, among which were identified the vertebrae, shoulder-blade and split leg-bones of the deer. Around the pit containing the deposit had been set small posts and stakes, enclosure-like.

The earth comprising the mound was that gathered promiscuously from the adjacent surface and from ravines and washes. The individual loads or basketfuls often were clearly distinguishable by their colors. A single intrusive burial—that of a young adult—was found, badly decomposed, one foot below the surface on the northern slope of the mound.

Four old shafts, sunk to either side of center in a line north and south were disclosed by our survey. They were each about five feet across at the point of contact with the floor. Aside from Squier and Davis' state-

ment, as before noted, no record of such examination, nor by whom conducted, has been found.

The accompanying map of the Cedar Bank works shows a small mound occupying the point of land just to the north-west of the Ginther works. This is on land now owned by the Schilder brothers, of Chillicothe, who generously permitted its examination. The structure was found to be two feet high at the center, with an indeterminate diameter, as a result of cultivation and from the fact that no floor line existed. Occupying the central portion of the elevation there was found a mass of burned clay, reaching from the supposed base-line to within a few inches of the top, and covering a space nine feet in diameter. At the bottom center of this mass was found a partial human skeleton, the skull, femuri and a few small bones only being present. It was noted that the earth beneath the skeleton was disturbed, and excavation disclosed a circular pit, four and one-half feet in diameter, reaching to a depth of three feet beneath the base line. On the flat bottom of this pit was found a layer, six inches in depth, composed of intermixed carbonaceous matter and small plates and fragments of mica. A few of the mica plates were as much as six inches across, but none was cut into form. Three flake knives, of drab nodular flint, were found in the layer. No other part of the mound disclosed remains.

In the same field and adjoining the Schilder mound on the north-east, are a number of tipi-sites and fire-places. The presence of these is readily noted when the ground is freshly plowed, or in the greater luxuriance of the grain under cultivation. They are charac-

terized by an abundance of burned stone, flint-chips, broken pottery-ware and fragments of mica. In two of these, beneath the plow-lines, were found flake knives of the drab flint, exactly similar to those taken from the Schilder and the Ginther mounds. It is everywhere evident, from the remains of tipi-sites and other indications, that the entire face of the terrace, from the Cedar Bank group southward past the Ginther works to the Hopeton group, was the place of habitation of the peoples who constructed and utilized these several works.

That the Ginther mound, the Schilder mound and the accompanying tipi-sites pertain to the great Hopewell culture group of prehistoric peoples will be evident to the student of Ohio archaeology, if not, indeed, to the casual reader. Whether future explorations will continue to bear out Squier and Davis' seemingly unwarranted surmise that the flat-topped mounds contain no remains, remains to be seen. We can, even at this late date, speak authoritatively only of a single one — the Ginther mound. In this instance we know that no human remains were enclosed, and if one were inclined to speculation it would not be difficult to surmise that the impressive tumulus was erected to mark the spot where some event or occurrence of great moment and significance to its builders transpired — rather than as a monument to the dead.

THE MIESSE MOUND.

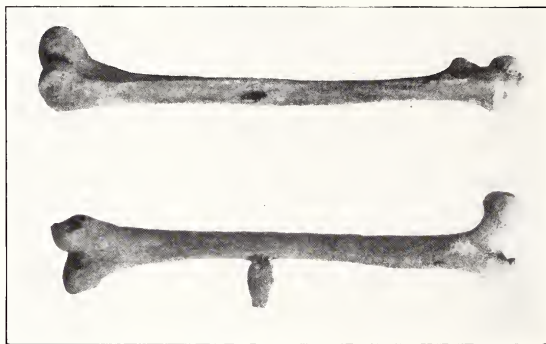
The Miesse Mound is located in Green township, Ross county, Ohio, on the land of Dr. Charles Miesse, of Chillicothe. It lies on the brow of the second terrace of the Scioto river valley, about one mile north-east

from the Ginther mound, and about one-third of a mile east of the Cedar Bank works. Upon completion of the examination of the Ginther mound, and at the request of Mr. Albert C. Spetnagel, who had secured exploration privileges, the force of laborers was employed for one day, August 10, 1922, in its examination.

The structure was found to be 25 feet in diameter and about two feet in height. It was composed of the yellow clay of the region and was entirely homogenous throughout. It was found to contain five distinct burials — four of them being simple uncremated skeletons, placed singly, while the fifth consisted of an uncremated skeleton accompanied by the cremated remains of two or more individuals.

One of the uncremated skeletons (number 1 in the accompanying floor plan) lay within the south-west quarter of the mound, on the original surface. It was that of an adult male, about five feet and seven inches in height, which lay extended on the back with head to the southeast. Several bones of the skeleton were missing, the burial apparently being a re-burial. It was unaccompanied by artifacts, but the right femur was penetrated by a chipped flint arrow-point, of black material, two inches in length. The projectile had pierced the heavy bone, to and through the interior canal, reaching to the opposite wall. The force with which the weapon struck the angular edge of the bone had resulted in shattering the extreme tip or point, and the fragments apparently had worked their way out of the wound, in the resulting suppuration. That the wound was not a fatal one is shown by the fact that the perforation had healed, considerable new bone tissue having been thrown out around the embedded point. That the

arrow-point itself had remained in place in the shaft of the femur is explained, doubtless, by the fact that it was embedded in the heavy muscles of the leg, and in the absence of efficient surgical skill, was suffered to remain within the wound. The cut (Fig. 1) illustrates



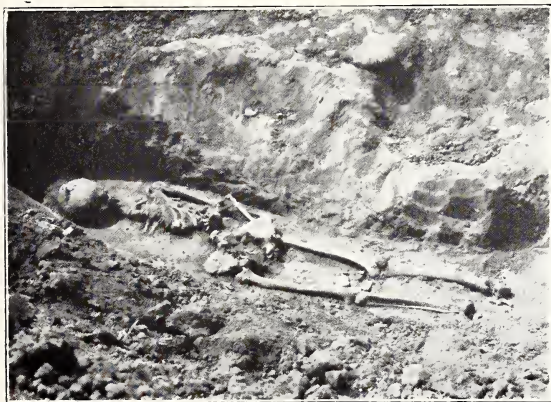
the femur bone with the arrow-point in place, as found; and the wound, with the arrow removed.

A second skeleton (number 2) almost complete but badly decomposed, lay in the south-east quarter of the mound. It was disposed similarly to the above and was without distinctive features.

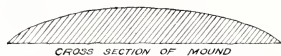
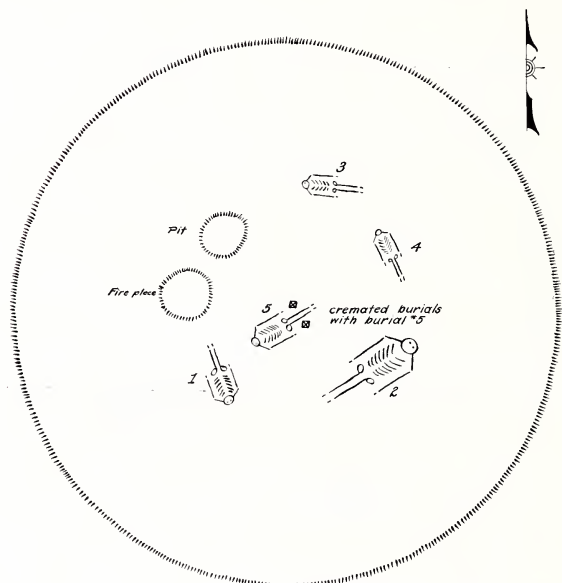
Two partial skeletons (numbers 3 and 4) lay within the north-east quarter of the mound. A rude refuse pit and a fire-place occupied the north-west section, as shown on the plan.

The feature of the Miesse mound was the central complex burial, shown as number 5. This occupied a grave, dug at about the center of the structure to a

depth of 15 inches below the original surface and measuring six feet in length and two feet and four inches in



width. In it had been placed an adult human skeleton, uncremated, with head to the south-west. On the chest



CROSS SECTION OF MOUND

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY
 MIESSE MOUND
 FIELD EXPLORATIONS
 BY
 H. C. SIETRONE
 AUGUST 10-11, 1942
 J. H. JEFFERSON - SURVEYOR.

Scale in Feet.
 0 1' 2' 3' 4' 5' 6' 7' 8' 9' 10'

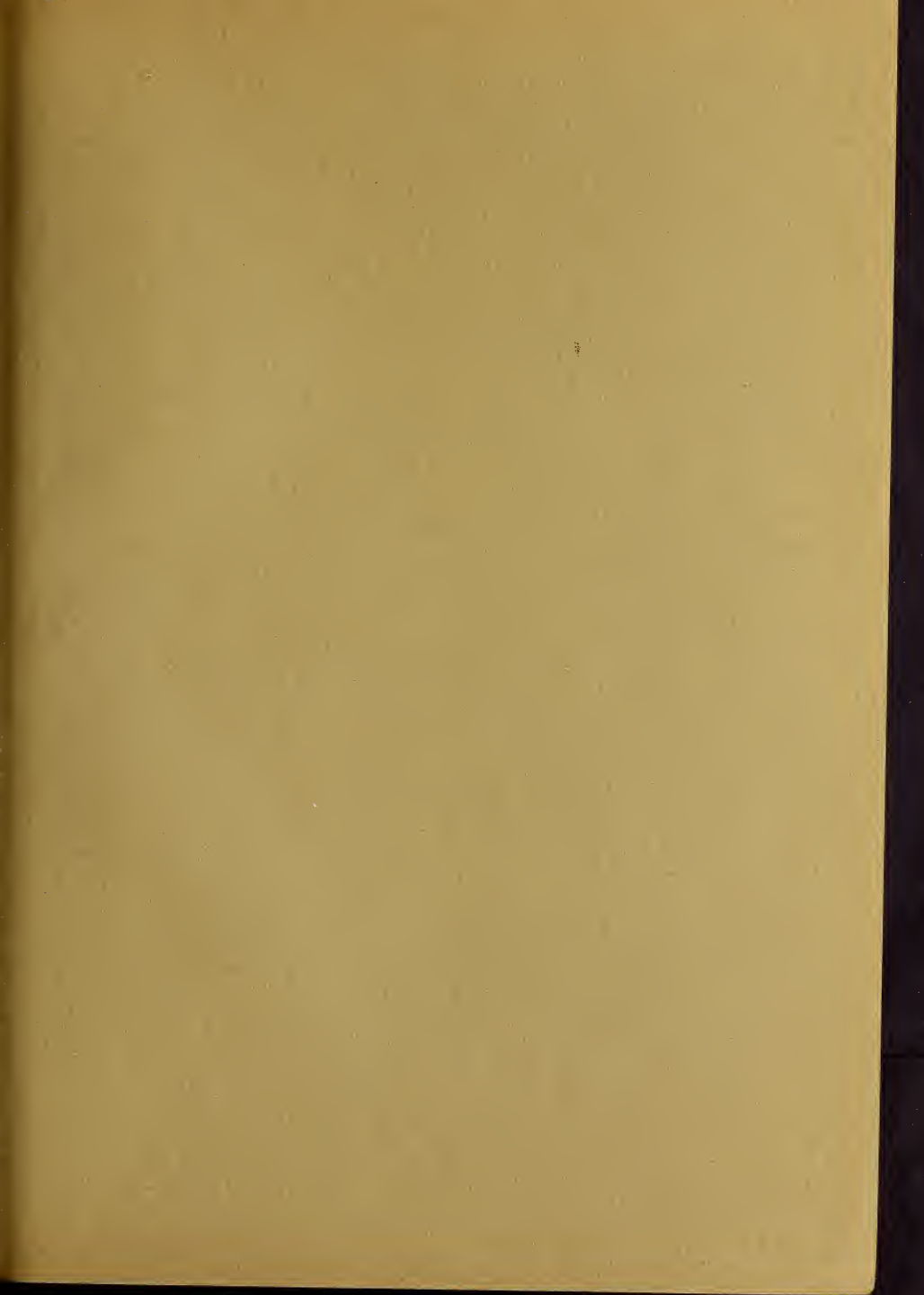
of the skeleton lay the base portion of a spear-point of translucent flint, while at the knees were a truncated cone of white limestone, a turtle-shell container, an arrow-point of black flint, the incisor of a beaver, and the tip of a deer antler. Beneath and around this skeleton, extending from the head to the knees, were disposed the cremated remains of two, and probably three individuals. The cut shown as Figure 2 shows the burial as uncovered, while Figure 3 illustrates the uncremated skeleton after removal of the cremated remains.

The finding of a burial in which an uncremated skeleton was accompanied by cremated remains, as in this example, is interesting and unusual, if not indeed unique. The arrow-pierced femur is one of the best illustrations yet found in the Ohio mounds of the penetrating power of the primitive flint implement.









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